

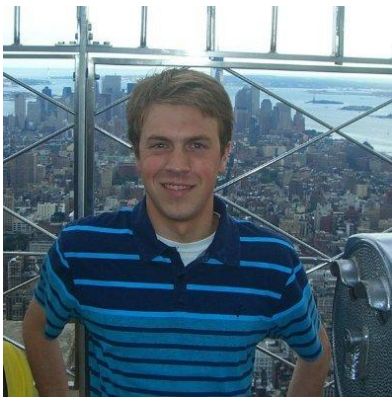
# EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



*January 2013, Vol. 25*

Written & edited by Ben Terwilliger

## **Message from the Director: Ben Terwilliger**



*Ben at the Empire State Building, New York, NY, 2012.*

Happy New Year everyone! This is the first newsletter for the EAHS since April of 2011. I apologize for the lack of a newsletter in 2012, it was a busy year and we simply did not get around to making one. Much has changed with the EAHS since April of 2011. This newsletter will bring you up to date with all of the changes!

Thanks to support from the City of Eudora and Douglas County, I will be able to continue my position with the EAHS in 2013. I am greatly looking forward to this year, working with our excellent EAHS Board to accomplish many important goals.

In 2013, we hope to continue to organize our collections, grow our scope and outreach in the community, and start the move to a permanent home. I am excited to be working here and I cannot wait to help our future goals come to fruition.

## **We're moving Back to Main Street! A permanent home for the EAHS has been secured**

The search for a permanent home for the Eudora Area Historical Society (EAHS) is now over. Over the coming years, plans are in place to renovate the buildings at 720/722 Main Street into the new, permanent home for the Eudora Community Museum.



*Future EAHS Home: 720/722 Main Street*

At the EAHS Board meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Board unanimously approved the donation of the historic buildings at 720/722 Main Street to the EAHS from Pam Staab. With Ms. Staab's generous donation, the EAHS can now access funds awarded to the EAHS by the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council (HCC) in 2012.

We currently have access to around \$60,000 in grant funding from the HCC. We anticipate the project will cost around \$200,000 to fully renovate the buildings into use for a museum. We will apply for a grant

to the HCC again in 2013, but we will also need to raise funds and have labor donated as well. Fund raising ideas are being developed. We encourage all EAHS members to donate to the project and spread the word that we will be raising funds.

Architectural plans to renovate the buildings are in place and Eudora City Council member and contractor, Bill Whitten has agreed to be Project Manager. All necessary components for the plan to renovate 720/722 for use of a museum have been secured. This is a great step forward for the EAHS and indeed, the entire community of Eudora. We are that much closer to having a permanent home for the museum and on Main Street as well. The decision to proceed with this plan was a brave move on the Board's part and a move in the right direction.

The EAHS has existed as an organization for 33 years. In the past 33 years, the EAHS has never had a permanent home. The first museum for the EAHS opened in 2004 in the former Eudora Middle School building on Main Street. In May of 2011 the museum was moved to its current location at the former Nottingham Elementary building.

Please support us as we go forward on this project in 2013! We will inform EAHS members of further details as they develop.

### **Debut of Eudora's African-American History Exhibit**

In October of 2012 a new exhibit detailing the history of Eudora's African-American community opened in the museum. The African-American community of Eudora has long been overlooked. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, African-Americans comprised roughly 25% of the Eudora Township, yet

the story of this community has been largely forgotten.

The exhibit was developed with the use of funds from the Kansas Humanities Council and Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. The exhibit was created by Christine Inman, an Intern with the EAHS from June of 2011 until September of 2012. Christine is a recent graduate from the Museum Studies Program at the University of Kansas. Christine recently moved to Olpe, KS with her husband James. They are expecting their first child in 2013.

Make time to tour this exhibit! Take this opportunity to learn about Eudora's African-American community, their struggles and triumphs and how they influenced the community.



*The First Missionary Baptist Church served Eudora's African-American community from 1896 until the 1970s. It was located at 620 Locust Street and demolished in 1987.*

### **Other Items/Exhibits of Interest**

The EAHS was fortunate to receive a number of interesting donations in 2012: the original Laws Field sign, a large early 20<sup>th</sup> century trip hammer, ceremonial robes from the Eudora Odd-Fellows Lodge and artifacts from the Sunflower Ammunition Plant. A new exhibit detailing the history of the Sunflower Plant debuted in October.

## Programs for 2013

### **January 17, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall**

Ronda Hassig will discuss her book of historical fiction *The Abduction of Jacob Rote*. Jacob Rote was a German boy who was allegedly kidnapped by Quantrill's Raiders en route to Lawrence in 1863.

### **March 21, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall**

Program to be announced.

### **May 16, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall**

Ben Terwilliger will present on the Eudora Area and the Civil War. Special emphasis will be placed on Eudora's relation to William Quantrill's 1863 Raid of Lawrence.

### **July 18, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall**

Program to be announced.

### **August 17-18**

A special bus tour coinciding with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of William Quantrill's infamous 1863 Raid of Lawrence will stop in the Eudora Area. More details to come.

### **September 19, 7:30pm, TBA**

Program to be announced.

### **November 21, 7:30pm, Eudora Community Museum**

Program to be announced.

### **December, Eudora Community Museum**

Holiday Open House. Date to be announced.

## Treasurer's Report

Funds of the EAHS as of January 1, 2013:

Checking	\$6,510
Savings (endowment)	\$3,380
Grant account	\$3,771

Total:	\$13,661
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## EAHS Elections

The Officers and Directors elected for the year 2013 are as follows:

### **Officers:**

President:	Glenn Wineinger
Vice President:	John More
Treasurer:	Jim Harris
Secretary:	Leonard Hollmann

### **Area Directors:**

Clearfield:	John More
Eudora:	Sue Pearson
Fall Leaf:	Lorene Cox
Hesper:	Steve Neis
Prairie Center:	Benny Dean
Weaver:	Steve Neis

## Information for the Eudora Community Museum:

### **Hours of operation:**

We will be open most Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9:30am to 5:30pm in 2013.

### **Location:**

The Eudora Community Museum is located in the former Nottingham Elementary building just south of the intersection at 14<sup>th</sup> and Church Streets.

### **Contact Information:**

Eudora Area Historical Society  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, KS 66025

785-690-7900

[EudoraHistory@gmail.com](mailto:EudoraHistory@gmail.com)

### **Official Website:**

<http://www.cityofeudoraks.gov/index.aspx?NID=100>

**"Like" us on Facebook.**

## Message from the President

I have enjoyed serving as your President and I will continue to enjoy being your President for this upcoming year. I look forward to many more years with the Eudora Area Historical Society.

Thank you,  
*Glenn Wineinger*  
President

## Museum Visitation

Visitation to the Eudora Community Museum has grown significantly over the last two years.



*2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students from Eudora Elementary, Nov. 2012.*

Over 280 and children visited the museum in 2012 with field trips, school groups or youth groups. The entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade from Eudora Middle School visited the museum in February of 2012 for a series of standards based field trips over a four day period. It was a great experience for everyone involved. Select students from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade from Eudora Elementary visited in November. Students from the Sancta Maria Montessori School in Eudora also visited in 2012. The museum has also

welcomed children from the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Summer Youth Program at the Eudora Parks and Recreation Center.

## Bronze Signs Installed on Buildings on Main Street

In October of 2012, thirteen bronze signs were installed along some of the most historic buildings on Eudora's Main Street. This project for signage along historic buildings on Eudora's Main Street was funded through a grant from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council and developed by the Eudora Area Historical Society. Next time you are on Main Street, make sure to take a few minutes to read about the history of some of our community's most enduring structures.

## Survey of Historic Properties in the Eudora Township

This spring, the EAHS was involved with a project headed by Dale Nimz and Susan Ford to survey all historic structures in the Eudora Township. The survey was funded through the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council. The findings of this survey are available online at the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory (KHRI) website. (link: <http://khri.kansasgis.org/>)

This survey is very exciting and will help document the historic buildings in the rural areas around Eudora.

## The Original Deed to City of Eudora Added to EAHS Collections

Perhaps the most historic document relating to the City of Eudora is now in the care of the Eudora Area Historical Society. The original Deed to the City of Eudora, is the document whereby Shawnee Indian Paschal Fish transferred ownership of his land to a German Immigrant group that founded



Eudora in 1857. The Deed was signed by Paschal Fish, and agents for the German Immigrant group: Louis W. Pfeif and Charles Durr. The Deed was ratified on February 14, 1860.

The quest to find this historic document started earlier this year when John Harrenstein, the City Administrator for Eudora, asked if the EAHS had the original Deed. We did not have the Deed and therefore went on a mission to locate it, if the original Deed even still existed. Considering the document was created over 150 years ago, there was significant cause to believe the document was lost to history.

We started to contact various families that we thought might be in possession of the Deed. After several weeks of calling different families, we were able to reach a family that knew of the Deed and informed us they donated it to the Douglas County Historical Society in 2010. The Douglas County Historical Society was able to locate the Deed and donate it to the EAHS in November of 2012.

The Deed is in good shape considering its age. We are in the process of making high resolution copies of the Deed for display purposes. The original Deed will remain in closed, secure storage to enable its preservation.

### **Eudora Properties Added to the Kansas Register of Historic Places**

2012 was an important year in terms of historic preservation for the Eudora area. Two properties in the Eudora area were added to the Kansas Register of Historic Places in 2012. Prior to 2012, only one property in Eudora was on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places, the Pilla House at 615 Main Street.

The two properties added in 2012 were the building at 707 Main Street and the B'nai Israel Cemetery at the corner of Winchester Road and N 1300 Road.

707 Main Street is noted for its large, ornate and brightly painted metal cornice on its front exterior. The building was built in 1892 and served as the Eudora State Bank.



*B'nai Israel Cemetery, south of Eudora.*

The B'nai Israel Cemetery was established in the 1860s by Eudora's early Jewish community. Many of Eudora's first families were Jewish. The cemetery is one of the few Jewish cemeteries in the region, and one of the very few to be added to the Kansas Register of Historic Places. The cemetery today is maintained by the Lawrence Jewish Community Center.

### **This Week in Eudora History**

For most of 2012, the EAHS published the feature "This Week in Eudora History" on the *Eudora Reporter* blog. Be sure to check out the blog in 2013 to see this excellent feature that sheds light on historical events from Eudora's past.

### **Remembering Mary Ellen May**

Long time EAHS member Mary Ellen May passed away last June. We are extremely grateful for her dedication to the EAHS and the History of Eudora over the years.

*To join or renew your membership, or to make a donation, please provide the following information and return this form with your payment to:*

**Eudora Area Historical Society  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, Kansas 66025**

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Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type (check one):**

- ☐ Individual                      \$6.00  
☐ Contributing                      \$10.00  
☐ Business                      \$20.00  
☐ Sustaining                      \$50.00  
☐ Lifetime                      \$100.00

**Please check all that applies:**

- ☐ New Member                      ☐ Membership Renewal                      ☐ Donation  
☐ Cash                      ☐ Check                      Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

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☐ I wish to make a donation to the project to restore 720/722 Main Street for use of the Eudora Community Museum.

☐ Cash                      ☐ Check                      Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_